

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-14. (Cancelled)

15. (New) A digital audio network station, comprising:
a digital audio transceiver configured for sending and receiving compact disc (CD) quality streaming digital audio signals over a digital audio bus directly to another digital audio network station without transmission through an intermediate central hub;
a controller for sending and receiving control signals over a control bus;
a processor in communication with the digital media transceiver and controller for arbitrating transmission and reception of the CD quality streaming digital audio signals in response to control signals and preventing streaming digital audio signal collisions from occurring on the digital audio bus; and
wherein arbitrating further comprises:
receiving a command on the control bus;
determining if the digital audio bus is in use or not;
if the command comprises a system-wide broadcast command and there is no transmission on the digital audio bus, executing said system-wide broadcast command, or else timing out; and
if the command comprises a station-specific command and there is no transmission on the digital audio bus, executing a handshake followed by the station-specific command, or else timing out.

16. (New) The digital audio network station according to claim 15, further comprising a switchable balancing network between the digital audio transceiver and the digital audio bus.

17. (New) The digital audio network station according to claim 15, further comprising a switchable balancing network between the controller and the control bus.

18. (New) The digital audio network station according to claim 15, further comprising an audio output connection from the digital audio transceiver for delivering CD quality digital audio signals to an audio output device.

19. (New) The digital audio network station according to claim 18, wherein the audio output device comprises a speaker.

20. (New) The digital audio network station according to claim 15, further comprising an audio input connection for connecting an external audio source providing CD quality digital audio signals to the digital audio transceiver for transmission over the digital audio bus.

21. (New) The digital audio network station according to claim 15, further comprising a memory device in communication with the processor for storing computer instructions executable by the processor.

22. (New) The digital audio network station according to claim 15, wherein the CD quality streaming digital audio signals are transmitted according to a standard selected from the group consisting of: Dolby Digital™ and Digital Theater Systems™ (DTS).

23. (New) A digital audio network system, comprising:
a digital audio bus;
a control bus;
a plurality of digital audio network stations connected to the digital audio bus and the control bus; and
the plurality of digital audio network stations each configured for streaming CD quality digital audio signals directly between each other over the digital audio bus without transmission through a central hub according to a method of switching arbitration using the control bus.

24. (New) The digital audio network system of claim 23, wherein each of the digital audio network stations further comprises a memory device in communication with the processor for storing computer instructions executable by the processor, the computer instructions implementing a method of switching arbitration to prevent streaming digital audio signal collisions from occurring on the digital audio bus.

25. (New) The digital audio network system of claim 23, wherein the digital audio bus comprises a signal transmission technology selected from the group consisting of: electrical, infra-red, ultrasonic, radio frequency and fiber optic technologies.

26. (New) The digital audio network system of claim 23, wherein the digital audio bus comprises a plurality of digital audio buses.

27. (New) The digital audio network system of claim 23, wherein the CD quality streaming digital audio signals are transmitted according to a standard selected from the group consisting of: Dolby Digital™ and Digital Theater Systems™ (DTS).

28. (New) A method of switching arbitration in a digital audio network system, the method comprising:
providing a streaming digital audio network system, comprising:
a digital audio bus;
a control bus; and
a plurality of digital audio network stations connected to the digital audio bus and the control bus, each of the plurality of digital audio network stations configured for streaming CD quality digital audio signals directly between other stations over the digital audio bus, without transmission through a central hub, according to instructions in control packets transmitted over the control bus and preventing streaming digital audio signal collisions from occurring on the digital audio bus through switching arbitration;
generating a control packet at one of the plurality of digital audio network stations;
transmitting the control packet over the control bus to all other digital audio network stations;
all the other digital audio network stations parsing the control packet; and
if the control packet comprises a system-wide broadcast command and if there is no transmission on the digital audio bus, executing the system-wide broadcast command, or else timing out.

29. (New) The method according to claim 28, further comprising, if the control packet comprises a network station-specific command, and there is no transmission on the digital audio bus, executing a handshake and the network station-specific command, or else timing out.

30. (New) The method according to claim 29, wherein executing the handshake further comprises validating a response to ensure correct processing of the network station-specific command.

31. (New) The method according to claim 29, wherein the CD quality streaming digital audio signals are transmitted according to a standard selected from the group consisting of: Dolby Digital™ and Digital Theater Systems™ (DTS).